

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 31077 251236Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-05
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DHA-05 AF-10 L-03
CA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SS-15 NSC-05 /120 W
-----124349 251320Z /41

R 251318Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0735
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, FR
SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF STATE BLOCKS PART OF FOREIGN
WORKER MEASURES

REF: PARIS 29819

1. SUMMARY: THE COUNCIL OF STATE HAS REPORTEDLY TOLD
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THE GOVERNMENT THAT ONE PART OF THE NEW MEASURES INTRO-
DUCED TO TIGHTEN UP ON FOREIGN WORKERS IN FRANCE IS
IMPERMISSIBLE, AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS BACKED DOWN.
END SUMMARY.

2. IN A MOVE WHICH HAS ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE PRESS
ATTENTION, THE COUNCIL OF STATE, WHOSE CONCURRENCE

WAS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE GOVERNMENT'S TEMPORARY BAN ON THE IMMIGRATION OF FAMILIES OF FOREIGN WORKERS INTO FRANCE (SEE REFTTEL), REPORTEDLY HAS ADVISED THE LABOR MINISTRY THAT SUCH A MEASURE WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE CONSTITUTION; IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS; AND INCOMPATIBLE WITH FRENCH POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS. AS A RESULT, THE MINISTRY IS APPARENTLY PREPARING A NEW DRAFT DECREE WHICH WILL TAKE ACCOUNT OF FRANCE'S INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND PERMIT OTHERWISE LEGAL FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS. THE OTHER NEW MEASURES: THE EXTENSION OF THE REPATRIATION BOUNTY, AND A BAN ON ALL NEW WORK PERMITS EXCEPT FOR THOSE IN SPECIAL CATEGORIES, DO NOT REQUIRE COUNCIL CONCURRENCE AND WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS ANNOUNCED.

3. THE POTENTIAL HARM TO FRANCE'S IMAGE POSED BY THE FAMILY REUNION BAN AND THE ARTIFICIAL POLITICAL FUROR WHICH HAS SURROUNDED IT, SEEM TO BE TAKEN MORE SERIOUSLY NOW WITHIN THE BUREAUCRACY. THE DAY BEFORE THE COUNCIL MADE ITS OWN DECISION, THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOREIGN WORKERS EXPRESSED HIS PRIVATE CONCERN TO US THAT THE PROPOSED DIRECTIVE DID SEEM TO VIOLATE THE FRENCH AGREEMENT WITH PORTUGAL; AND SHOWED AWARENESS OF THE POTENTIAL POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES INTERNATIONALLY. (IN THIS CONNECTION WE NOTE THAT LE MONDE, WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE HAD ACCESS TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNPUBLISHED COUNCIL REPORT, STATED THAT THE DOCUMENT REFERRED TO THE PROPOSED BAN'S INCOMPATIBILITY WITH FRANCE'S POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT BELGRADE, AND ITS PLANNED PARTICIPATION IN AN EEC DECLARATION OF SOCIAL RIGHTS.)

4. WHAT IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS TIME, IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THIS SITUATION REPRESENTS POOR INITIAL STAFF WORK, OR A SUBSEQUENT CHANGE IN POLITICAL SIGNALS, MADE AT THE LAST MINUTE THROUGH THE COUNCIL. IN EITHER CASE, THE EPISODE HAS DONE NOTHING FOR THE IMAGE OF STATE SECRETARY STOLERU (A PRESIDENTIAL PROTEGE AND A CANDIDATE IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS), WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOREIGN WORKERS PROGRAMS. HE IS NOW REPORTEDLY IN THE PROCESS OF ARRANGING FOR VISITS TO NORTH AFRICA, AND ELSEWHERE, TO EXPLAIN FRENCH FOREIGN WORKER POLICY AND, APPARENTLY, TO TRY TO RENEGOTIATE CERTAIN OF THE AGREEMENTS ON FOREIGN WORKERS. GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: ELAB, FR
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